

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Cleaveland Price, Inc.

#### Catalyst Connection

#### Cleaveland Price, Inc. Boosts Throughput with Lean

##### Client Profile:

Cleaveland/Price, Inc., founded in 1975, offers a complete line of group operated switches up to 230 kV along with a broad line of hookstick operated products. The company's facility in Trafford, Pennsylvania employs 70 people.

##### Situation:

Cleaveland/Price Inc. was looking to make improvements to the company's friction welded parts assembly. They also wanted to increase employee involvement in the process. The company enlisted T.J. Bloom, a Lean Consultant with Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, to facilitate a Kaizen event for the company's friction welded parts assembly team. This discovery process prompted recommendations from the employees to implement a cellular manufacturing layout.

##### Solution:

Catalyst Connection provided basic Lean training and took the team through a current state Value Stream Map of the friction welded parts family. This process identified areas with the greatest opportunity for improvement. For each opportunity, the Kaizen team brainstormed ideas on how to make the necessary improvements using lessons learned in the Lean basics class. The greatest opportunity was to create a one piece flow cell for the friction welded parts family instead of the current state which had the parts traveling thousands of feet from one machine department to another. The team developed an ideal layout on paper based on the volume, machine requirements and capacity. This layout was used as a guide to implement changes on the production floor.

##### Results:

- \* Reduced cycle time from 9 minutes to 5 minutes.
- \* Increased throughput from 30 percent to 50 percent.
- \* Reduced lead time by 50 percent.
- \* Improved employee morale.

##### Testimonial:

"The employees felt good to be involved in the improvement process. Based on the success of this first event, Cleaveland/ Price looks forward to applying the same process of employee-driven lean transformation to its next area of operation."

Ray Takacs, Operations Manager